

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

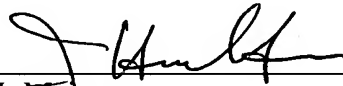
Allowable Claims 3 and 14 have been cancelled, and the subject matter thereof has been incorporated into their base Claims 1 and 12, respectively. This has rendered Claims 7, 10, 14 and 18 superfluous, and so these claims have been cancelled. Allowable Claims 4 and 15 have been rewritten in independent form. All of the claims are therefore allowable over the prior art.

The dependency of Claims 5-11 has been clarified. In addition, the dependency of Claims 13-22 has been corrected. The objections of paragraphs 4 and 5 of the Office Action are therefore believed to be moot.

Applicants therefore believe that the present application is in a condition for allowance and respectfully solicit an early Notice of Allowability.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier
Registration No. 25,599
Robert T. Pous
Registration No. 29,099
Attorneys of Record

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 03/06)
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James D. Hamilton
Registration No. 28,421